French TV Special 11/28/76

When Jean-Michel Charlier phoned from the Statelr-Hilton about me a yesterday his purpose was for me to send him a copy of *Frame-Up* in time for him to take to France when he leaves tomorrow and to ask if I would speak to him when he returns in February. When I told him the book could not possible reach him in time he asked if I could go to Washington Monday. I told him I could not. However, I invited him here.

When? he asked.

My "anytime beginning now" response apparently disconcerted him because he appeared not to know how to respond. I assured him that our only arrangements for the day were social, that if I were not willing to be helpful to him I'd not be inviting him, that I was sure I could be of help to him, and that there would be no intrusion into our plans for dinner with old friends if he came. I told him I did not have to ask my wife and that he should bring any co-worker, companion of if she were travelling with him his wife. Although he was at first reluctant he agreed, saying he would be here about 5. I gave him directions and he wrote them down.

At the end of what was a fairly long conversation I suggested strongly that if he had no other obligations it would be a good idea to come as soon as he could because once here he might want more time than he had.

Ian and Crispina McDonald were here. They and Lil were about to leave to do some shopping. Kim Gerr was due in about 5 on her return from Thanksgiving with her parents in Erie. She was to overnight. The McDonalds were baby-sitting an exceptionally bright 2 1/2 year-old girl Annie Johnson so her parents would be free to attend a wedding and the party after it. I was working on correspondence and filing.

Kim decided to make the trip without a break. She rolled in almost as soon as the shopping expedition left. I had been just begun to respond to a full pound of mailing from John Larry Ray, from the federal prison in Marion, Ill.

Kim was leaving instead of remaining to meet a late train on which her roomate was returning to college and her boyfriend's plane in the a.m. This and the need to return Annie for early bedding led Lil to set supper for 5, the time the Charliers were due. When they were not here on time the women went ahead with the meal. "The French are never on time, English Ian explained.

After the meal the others left, Lil and I sat back to relax, I to think of what I'd do for the rest of the night. I had just poured a drink and returned to a chair with it when I saw headlights coming in the lane. It was the Charliers, with apologies and explanations I did not comprehend through his accent. They demurred when I asked if they had eaten, we insisted and they indulged an apparent excellent apetite, their consumption ample indication of their sincerity in praising Lil's cooking. We talked while they ate. We then continued talking until 11:30, when they left.

It was a day on which nothing that was planned was done. It was the kind of day that was not interferred with by not going on sheedule. Of all I'd planned I was able to do only one thing, go to the post office for a certified mailing from a source on the CIA's behavior-midification and mind-bending experiments.

Michel, as he prefers to be called, is a very large man six feet of more and of exceptional girth. His trousers do not reach his waiste. ~~His~~ His stomach is so large it seems that he cannot button his jacket.

From his card he is producteur- delegue of Radio-Diffusion-Television Francaise. From his conversation he has made many specials in the United States.

On one, J. Edgar Hoover, he interviewed Dave DeLoach. He says DeLoach told him that he was in charge of the King assassination investigation, that Ray was a pidgeon in it, and that black militants were behind it. He promised me a tape of this interview. In it DeLoach also described King's visit to Hoover's office. Hoover had his King dossier prominently in view. DeLoach told Michel that once King had seen the bulk of the dossier on himself he moderated his attacks on the FBI.

What interested me is the FBI's belief there had been a conspiracy and that Ray was only a pidgeon, meaning not the assassin.

The evening also did not go as planned. Michel altered his plans while he was here for much more than the hour he'd indicated. Instead of comin back in February he wanted to know if when he returns next week we can get together. I told him after the 2d, when Jim and I are in court again. This makes it appear that he is not returning to France of is going for about overnight because the first, the day he asked about, is only two days after his scheduled flight.

He had already interviewed Downing. By the new committee's chairman he was assured that Castro killed JFK.

He did little talking about the King assassination, most about the JFK one.

In the course of this he explored who did it.I would only in terms of who had an interest, making it clear that while many could have had an interest they were not all assassinas and that there is no real basis for elimination. During this discussion he asked about oil men. This reminded me of Farewell America and I mentioned it and Lemarre. He seemed to have only a ~~xxx~~ hazy knowledge of it when I first mentioned it. He knew the original title was L'Amerique Brule. I traced its history a little more because it is a French venture and we went on to other topics. When he asked about a clear print of the Zapruder film I returned to this to tell him an excellent one is available in France. Here he was direct in acknowledging his personal knowledge.

My impression when I first mentioned Farewell America, with details that linked Lemarre to oil and the corporate and printing and distribution history, with names and places, was that he was fudging, that he knew more than he let on. We had talked for several hours when I returned to Lemarre and his excellent print and the transmograncies

he had shown me in New Orleans. "Lamarre has two prints," I told him, "One is a xxxpy copy of the made-up one Life gave him to be able to trace his leaking of it, the other he says he got from the Kennedy family."

"From Robert, he told me," Michel responded, dropping all pretense of having no personal knowledge.

"He is [redacted]," I said. Michel acknowledged this. I went no farther with the French intelligence intrusion into the Garrison operation except to explain briefly my connection with ending the prospects of the movie Farewell American prior to the Shaw trial and the lack of need for it at the trial because Bethel has stolen the case summary for the defense.

However, he does not want, does not want to ask for or thinks he cannot get the SDECE print. I offered to lend him mine, the antecedents of which I told him, or to try to obtain a good one in 16mm of the slow-motion, which I recommended as better for his purposes.

He seems to have turned on strongly. I think it was the manner in which I responded and xxxxxx conspiracy, separate from who conspired, his interest. I told him that no matter how complicated lawyers try to make conspiracy appear to be it is simple, no more than a combination in an illegality. The complication is in proving who conspired, not that there had been a combination to do wrong. In this case it was already established by my work and official evidence I had obtained that 1) the assassination was not committed as official alleged and 2) it was beyond the capability of a single man. To this I added proof of the official knowledge of both in the sense of that being a subordinate and later official conspiracy into which I went in terms of political need of the moment and not thereafter changed when the need disappeared. I showed him illustrations in Post Mortem. On the lack of Commission innocence, where he thought Boggs in particular was innocent - so I think the nuts had had his ear - I read from the executive session transcripts of 1/22/64 and 1/27. It obviously astounded him, as he showed in face as much as words.

When he showed I'd told him I could provide him with visuals, including official documents never seen on the tube. Before he left he said that when he returned he would like to obtain the pictures I had shown him, that he would pay me for this and that he meant not for copies only but that he would pay me well. I agreed. I think he sees the possibilities of the formula I have had in mind since proposing it to CBS in the ix winter of 1965-6 and of the visual evidence I have if not also the history of obtaining this evidence. I can see no reason for his having lied in saying he had to return to France tomorrow, 11/29, or in saying he would be back in February to shoot. When he then asked about our getting together again in the first, which is only the third day after he had said he was flying the ocean, although I said nothing I took this as an indication of his recognition of these TV possibilities and an interest in using them.

He has a good grounding in what is generally believe about the JFK assassination. I did not ask him all he had interviewed.